

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/716,352

Attorney Docket No. 0023-0016

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,658,595 to Thamattoor ("Thamattoor"). Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 12-16 as including allowable subject matter but being dependent on a rejected base claim and allowed claims 1-9 and 17-23.

By this Amendment, Applicants propose canceling claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer and amending claims 10 and 13. Claim 10 is amended to include the features of canceled claim 12 and claim 13 is amended to change its dependency from claim 12 to claim 10.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 10 is respectfully obviated, as this claim now contains all the features of original claim 12. The rejection of claim 11 is also obviated as it is dependent from claim 10.

Applicants submit that claims 1-11 and 13-23, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. The above-presented claim amendments do not present any new issues, as all the claims, as amended, recite features that were previously indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, an indication of Allowability is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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